basic cadre of Telephone Operators retaining their existing pay scales as for Supervisors. During subsequent years including 1988, 1989 and 1990, depending upon the availability of the vacancies in the grade of Supervisors, the officials who were earlier reverted as operators, including SC/ST candidates, were again restored as Supervisors as per their seniority.

[*English*]

Closure of Engineering Foundry Units

6799. SHRI. S.N. VEKARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) where several engineering foundry units in the country are facing closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c): One of the inputs of the foundry units is pig iron. Domestic production of pig iron is inadequate to meet the total domestic demand. Pig iron industry had been delicensed in 1986, so as to encourage entry of private sector in the production of pig iron. Import of pig iron was also placed under OGL in March, 1990 so as to enable users to directly import pig iron.

Allotment of Agricultural Land in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

6800. SHRI. MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases where agricultural land was allotted other than regularisation of encroachments in Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the last one year;

(b) whether the agricultural land allotted prior to last one years has been demarcated and the possession handed over to allotters;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any premium has been charged with retrospective effect; and

(e) if so, the rate thereof and when this rate commenced for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI.M.M. JACOB): (a) Two cases.

(b) and (c). In Andaman District agricultural land was allotted in 249 cases and in Nicobar district agricultural and hilly land was allotted in 319 cases. The land has been demarcated and the possession has been handed over to the allottees.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Flood Affected State

6801. SHRI. GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the benefit of small and marginal farmers in flood affected States;

(b) if so, the date from which the scheme would be launched;

(c) whether the scheme has already been launched in some States; and

(d) if so, the names of those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI. MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a): No, Sir.

(b) to (d): Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Licensed Post Offices in Urban Areas

6802. SHRI. DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a). whether the Government have approved a scheme to set up licensed post offices in Urban and Semi-Urban areas;

(b). whether the Government have modified the policy in this regard; and

(c). if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI. RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c): No, Sir. However, a scheme of Licensed Postal Agents was introduced in August 1985 with the objective of reducing operational expenditure in urban areas, introducing an element of competition in running of the post offices and providing basic needs namely availability of stamps and stationery and despatch of mails at points where post offices do not exist. At present the number of Licensed Postal Agents functioning in the country is about 200. No final view has been taken as yet in regard to modification or discontinuance of Licensed Postal Agency Scheme.

[*English*]

Royalty Collected from Mining Companies of Goa

6803. SHRI. HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the royalty on iron ore collected from the various mining companies in Goa during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the amount of royalty collected from the top five iron export companies in Goa during the above period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Alleged Irregularities in HAU, Hissar

6804. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a). whether several cases of irregularities in Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar have been brought to the notice of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI. K.C. LENKA): (a): No sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Telephone Connections at Goriyar Kothi and Siwan in Bihar

6805. SHRI. SURYA NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections at Goriya Kothi and Siwan in Bihar; and

(b) the steps taken to provide telephone connections to all the applicants?